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Council on Aging Minutes 01/18/07

The following are the minutes of the Jan 18, 2007 board meeting which were approved at the February 15, 2007 meeting of the COA.

ARLINGTON COUNCIL ON AGING
27 Maple Street
Arlington, MA 02476-4909

Robert Tosi, Jr., Chair
Paul West, Vice Chair
Shirley Chapski, Secretary

Regular Meeting of the Council on Aging
January 18, 2007

MINUTES

Place and Time of Meeting: Arlington Senior Center, 27 Maple St., Arlington, 7:30 p.m.

Members Present: Robert Tosi, Jr., Mildred Hurd, Karen Nichols, Paul West, Ann MacGowan, Harry McCabe, William Carey and Shirley Chapski.

Members Absent: Ruth Palombo

Others Present: John Jope, COA Executive Director; Elisa Lopez, President, ASA; Dorothy Schlichting; Mary Ann Curran; and Maureen Jackson

Quorum Identification/Call to Order: Bob Tosi, Jr. presided and Shirley Chapski, Secretary, kept the minutes. A quorum of 8 was present.

Minutes of the December 14, 2006 Regular meeting: Shirley moved to accept the Minutes of the December 14, 2006 meeting, Ann seconded. There being no corrections to the minutes, five voted in favor, three abstained.

Motion carried.

Citizens Open Forum: None.

REPORT OF THE CHAIR: Bob Tosi will call Christine Connolly for a copy of the budget that will be submitted to the Finance Committee. The next step in the budget process is to meet with the subcommittee, John Deyst and Mary Margaret Franclemont, of the Finance Committee to educate them on the history of the COA's funding, our current status, our projection and recommendations. Harry said we should prepare our own budget to be submitted and we should have an opportunity to participate in the budget process.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT: The Executive Director's report is attached hereto and made a part of the minutes. John made the following additions:

- Elder Affairs Line Items 9110-9002: Governor Patrick has restored the 9c cuts in the Elder Affairs line items. This means the state's Formula Grant money is restored to \$6.30 per elder resulting in an increase of \$3800 for Arlington COA. The board will send a letter of appreciation to the Governor acknowledging his decision to reverse the cuts. Karen suggested that we mention our hopes that 2008 level of funding be increased to \$7/elder.

- Annual Day of Remembrance: John and Shirley said the occasion went well and people appreciated it.

OTHER REPORTS:

- COA Representative/Liaison to Minuteman Senior Services: Harry reported that Minuteman is planning a training program for their board members and are looking for a place to hold it and Harry suggested to them that they hold the program in Arlington's Senior Center. No date has been set for the event.

- COA Representative/Liaison to the Seniors Association: Mildred did not attend last month's Senior Assoc. meeting and also did not receive notice of that meeting. Elisa Lopez said she would see that Mildred is notified of future meetings.

- Arlington Seniors Association Representative to COA: Elisa reported on improvements to the Function Room's audio system that are underway. The ASA board has voted \$1200 for the installation of the new equipment. Elisa and Bob would like to renew the ASA/COA Joint Cte. meetings to work together on issues of mutual interest. A meeting is scheduled for Feb. 7 at 9 a.m.

- Budget Committee: Harry moved that the Budget Committee, working with John, develop a draft budget for the next fiscal year so the board can have some input to the budget that is submitted to the Town. Bill Carey seconded the motion. Discussion followed and Harry moved the question. Karen moved to amend the motion: "that the proposed draft budget be sent to the members before next meeting so the members will be prepared to discuss it," Harry seconded the motion, all in favor. Motion carried.

- Transportation Committee: Bob reported that at the regular COA meeting on Dec. 14th certain policy statements were adopted on how to address the COA Transportation Program's concerns. Accordingly, John put together a document covering (a) COA transportation research (surrounding towns' COA transportation programs), (b) Arlington's COA Transportation Program outlining revenues and expenses, (c) COA FY2006 Transportation Enterprise Program (diagram), and (d) a list of proposed New Sources of Income. John said the COA staff feel that the transportation program, particularly Dial-a-Ride, was designed for low-income people and the staff cannot see the logic in raising rates. Such a move could cause some participants to stop using the services. John and Christine Connolly have gone over the figures and she wants to see a plan in place before the next COA meeting and the town wants to see some justification for the restoration of the \$30,000 from CDBG funds. Bill said we need to form a realistic budget showing the number of dollars needed to fund the program and Harry added that we need to make sure the Town Manager, Selectmen and Town Meeting are aware of our needs. Unlike other towns' COAs who receive municipal funds and/or money from COA Friends groups, Arlington's senior transportation program is the only one set up as an Enterprise Fund--it is designed to stand on its own.

Discussion took place concerning John's suggestion to possibly increase annual membership fee from \$2 to \$5; Bob's thoughts on having the Arlington Seniors Association (ASA) contribute to the transportation fees of people coming to the Senior Center for their activities. (Harry said it's for the ASA to consider and Elisa Lopez said she would bring it up at the next ASA meeting), and perhaps cutting the van service to four days per week.

Maureen Jackson, COA clerk, spoke about her concerns. She said a fare increase would not solve the transportation program's problems, but that we need to seek other sources of funding, perhaps from banks and hospitals, and that maybe now is the time to start using the Sevoyan Fund.

Elisa Lopez, Dorothy Schlichting and Mary Ann Curran departed the meeting at 8:50 p.m.

- Sevoyan Bequest Committee (SBC): The Sevoyan Bequest Recommended Policy Statement, Draft 2. Paul moved to accept Draft 2 of the Sevoyan Bequest Recommended Policy Statement which resulted from the January 9, 2007 meeting of the SBC. Bill seconded. Harry said the minutes of the January 9, 2007 meeting of the Sevoyan Bequest Committee need to be approved before the draft of the Recommended Policy can be addressed. Karen moved to table the motion; Harry seconded; all in favor. Motion carried.

- Minutes of the January 9, 2007 Sevoyan Bequest Committee: Harry moved to accept the minutes for purposes of discussion of the January 9, 2007 meeting; Shirley seconded. The time the meeting adjourned was changed from 7:30 pm. to 8:30 p.m. Further amendments to the minutes are set forth in the attached minutes of the SBC dated

Jan 9, 2007. Harry moved amend the motion to approve the minutes of the Sevoyan Bequest Cte. of Jan. 9, 2007 to include all omissions and corrections; Shirley seconded; all in favor. Motion carried.

Paul next renewed his motion that the draft of the Recommended Policy Statement as amended be adopted. No seconding motion.

•Sevoyan Policy Task Force: The members of the subcommittee, Harry, Bob and Shirley, will meet soon to work further on the Sevoyan Bequest Recommended Policy Statement.

NEW BUSINESS:

•Warrant Articles: The COA members voted on Dec. 14, 2006 to submit a warrant article for the Harry Barber Community Service Program in the amount of \$7500. John asks if it is the council's intention to submit a Warrant Article on Minuteman Senior Services Fair Share. Harry moved to submit a Warrant Article for the Minuteman Senior Services Fair Share Program; Shirley seconded; seven voted in favor, one abstained. Motion carried.

There being no further business to come before the meeting, Paul moved to adjourn; Shirley seconded; all in favor. Motion carried.

Adjourned at 9:15 p.m.

Shirley Chapski, Secretary

Next Regular Meeting February 15, 2007 at 7:30 p.m.



ARLINGTON COUNCIL ON AGING: EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

January 18, 2007

**the mission of the council on aging is to provide advocacy and support services
to help arlington elders live dignified and independent lives**

1. The newly-formed "Yamaji/Newcastle Volunteer Fund" Committee held a successful initial meeting on January 10. Several items were discussed, among them (a) what might be appropriate/inappropriate expenses; (b) reporting responsibilities; (c) accountability based upon the July-June fiscal year; (d) a method for volunteers to solicit Fund support; (e) the accepted definition of 'volunteer'. A report will be drafted for all boards.
2. Karen Nichols participated in the "No Place For Hate Program[®]" presentation on January 9; introduction page is attached.